

Laboratory Tip Sheet for Point-of-Care: Blood Gas Sample Collection and Testing

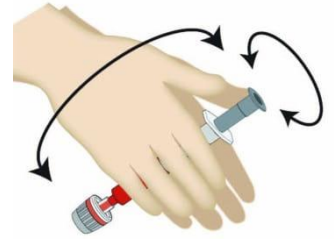
SPECIMEN TYPE

- ✓ Use dry **Lithium Heparin Syringes** for arterial and venous blood gas samples.
- ✗ **Do not** collect samples in **anything other than a dry lithium heparin syringe. Non-heparinized samples** should be recollected.



COLLECTION PROCESS:

- ✓ **Fill syringe to 3 mL** to ensure appropriate heparin concentration.
- ✓ **Immediately after collection**, expel any air bubbles and cap, then **gently invert the syringe continuously** for at least 30 seconds (approximately 30–60 inversions) to thoroughly mix anticoagulant.
- ✗ **Do not under fill syringes.** Inappropriate heparin concentrations may affect results.
- ✗ **Do not shake.**



ENSURE POSITIVE PATIENT IDENTIFICATION:

- ✓ **Label each syringe** with patient CSN barcode.
- ✓ **Ensure all labels from previous patients are discarded. Do not affix labels to the instrument, label only the syringes.**

SPECIMEN TESTING

- ✓ **Re-mix** the sample by **rolling capped syringe between the hands** at least 10 times immediately before analysis on the instrument.
- ✓ **Specimen Testing:** Analyze blood gas samples **as soon as possible. Samples not analyzed within 30 minutes** of collection should be recollected.
- ✓ **Only trained individuals with current competencies** are allowed to run the blood gas instrument. **NEVER** run the instrument using someone else's badge.
- ✗ **Do not attempt to remove clots before analysis.** Clotted samples should be recollected.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Scan the patient barcode CSN (or MRN).
- Review the results. Check for flagged results and remix/retest if necessary.
- If applicable, notify critical result(s) to provider. Add a comment with the provider's FIRST and LAST name.
- **Be sure to click 'ACCEPT' or 'EXCLUDE'** your test results on the instrument.
- Dispose of specimen in proper biohazard container.